

To the Honolulu City Council Fax # 527-5733
 Testimony for the 2-1-06 City Council Hearing
 From Caron M. Wilberts
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To all City Council members,

My name is Caron M. Wilberts and I would like to give testimony on the various property tax bill before you now. As an ordinary citizen that doesn't speak *Lawyer-eze*, I am struggling to understand the various bills with their confusing jargon and how these bills will affect my mother and myself and my friends and their parents. The homeowners of my mothers generation look at the doubletalk in these bills and most of them will not pertain to us.

Lets start with **Bill 4**. The basic home exemption is still at the 40th range with how property tax has tripled in recent years I propose that the basic exemption start at 200th and it go up from there accordingly. On subsection f.1.(b) A taxpayer who: Does not own any other real property anywhere. Does this mean because my mother owns another property that my brother lives on, that she will not be able to take advantage of this bill. This is not right. We are not renting, or making money on these properties. Mom and I live in one home and my brother lives in the other and we take care of our mother. That subsection should be eliminated, we have earned the right to use this bill. What are we to do when the 2007-2008 tax bill comes, where do you think the money comes from. **Proof of household income**- Any small amount of money that these people have been able to scrimp and save over the years should not be taken into consideration. You also cannot guarantee that our personal bank information will not be stolen.

Bill 15. Recommend to pass with the recommendation to change the tax ceiling credit to 75th dollars. Also if because my mother owns two properties, will she be able to use this bill, I've read it but I really have a hard time understanding the verbage. If with her two properties, she can use then then I recommend to pass.

Bill 05. Pass only if the verbage can be changed to say:

The new "owners" as receiving the property from inheritance, transfer, the new owners can Prove Years of residing on said residence. The new owners will be "Grandfathered In" and afforded the same tax benefits as the previous owner.

(Length of Residence, I've lived here 46 years, that should count for something). By the time my mother passes and the property hopefully goes to my brother and myself, he and I will never reach 58 years of residence as my mother has).

Bill 5. Assessment Cap. Section 8-7. Section (b) to add on a number 3 (3) after (2) Real property that is sold or transferred. The third line should read (3) For property that has been transferred by inheritance to family members and are the new titleholders who can prove years of residence on said property. The new title holders shall be accorded the same as in section (a) 1 thru 6.

Bill 2. Tax limit for homes. (a)(1) proposed at 10%. I would like to propose no more than 3%. There is no way that my wages will be able to keep up with the increases and I am unable to get another part time job with my arthritis. Again ladies and gentlemen, where do you think the money comes from. Even with my small 3% increase all of it will be going to pay the property tax and all the other increases you have imposed upon us this year. (b) (2&3). Again doesn't address any add'l property and when children inherit the property. There has to be some consideration for the children who have stayed behind to take care of their parents. We have done our duty and taken care of the older generation and I just want to have a house to live in when I am their age, is that too much to ask. We should be commended for taking care of our parents and not taxed out of existence.

Bill 12. Do not pass the general public will be victimized by the fluctuating tax rate, and a majority of them will not understand.

Bill 82. Do no pass unless: Section 2: about owning other property. That has to go. No matter if we own any other property we should be able to take advantage of that tax credit.

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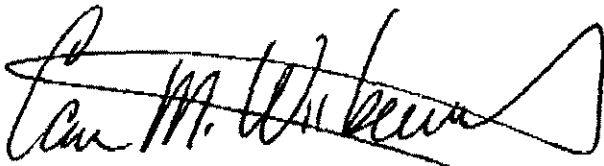
Bill 80.

You must take out (a) (4). My mother owns two properties. Again as I stated before, these are not rentals, we live there, as we have our whole lives. This one clause deletes us from taking advantage of any of these bills, If I am wrong and I am reading these wrong then could someone explain it to me. "No title holder owns any other real property anywhere", this one common thread has me sick to my stomach, where am I going to get the money to pay for the property tax.

I am begging you all, please do not tax us out of our homes, we have no where to go. I look at all these bills and all I see is political double talk and for the first time in my life I am scared that I won't have a home to live in when I am my mothers age.

If I can please beg you to take out those clauses in the various bills that state that to take advantage of these bills you can't own any other real property anywhere. Please can that clause be taken out or limited to no more than 2-3 properties owned that can be proven that immediate family members reside there, that is fair. We are desperate and I again beg you not to tax us out of our home.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caron M. Wilberts", with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

Caron M. Wilberts
Kaimuki